Change in policy regarding arms deals with Israel and South Africa

†1516. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there was a ban on supply of arms to Israel and South Africa under the old policy of Government but presently these two countries have become major partner of India in sale-purchase of the arms;

(b) if so, the reasons for change in the old policy of Government regarding defence deals; and

(c) the steps taken to check the expected ill effects on the relations of India with Arab countries?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) During the white apartheid regime of South Africa, India was adhering to the International sanctions against that country. The sanctions were lifted with the advent of pluralistic and multi-party democracy in South Africa in 1994. Since then India has been developing its relationship with South Africa in all spheres, including defence cooperation.

India and Israel established Embassies in each other's country in 1992. Since then bilateral relationship between the two countries has been growing including in the field of defence.

(c) Our defence dealings with other countries, including South Africa and Israel are guided solely by considerations of our own defence preparedness. This has had no adverse effect on India's relationship with Arab countries.

Export of defence equipments

1517. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI S. AGNIRAJ:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has been in a position to export defence equipments and fighter and supply aircrafts;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.